Our Lady Alliance

OUR DAILY ALLOWANCE.

2 Kings 25:30 Every day a portion all the days of his life
Deut. 33:25 As thy days so shall thy strength be.

Two texts expressing the same thot. 2 Kings 25:30 represents words addressed to Jehoiachin, King of Judah, after being in captivity for many years, by Evil-meredach king of Babylon, who took Jehoichin out of the dungeon and made him even more welcome and honored than the other kings at the coutt.

The second text are words addreessed to the tribe of Asher by Moses as his parting blessing.

The thot contained in both dexts is directly applicable to God's way of dealing with us.

I. For one thing it rebukes the folly in us of trying to live on yesterday's grace.

It is just as foolhardy and fatal to try to build up and strengthen the soul on blessings and grace received in the past as it would be to keep the body in health and strength on yesterday's food, or last week's food. The soul, no less than the body, requires fresh portions of food every day. Noone can keep his body alive, active and strong without eating and drinking his daily portion. The air that you breathed yesterday does not keep up your heart action today. It is our immediate constant breathing that keeps the heart going. Likewise our spiritual food must be a daily portion and we must continue to breathe in a spiritual atmosphere if we would keep our spiritual selves alive and strong. Yesterday's spiritual strevgth and grace must be renewed, and the HoIy Spirit of God must continue to breathe afresh within us every moment, if we would live.

Only thus can we make God's grace sufficient for every need. God fed the children of Israel afresh every day with manna from heaven, but the children of Israel had to gather it and eat it. God has given us his Holy Word and ever means of receiving His grace such as prayer and meditation and service, but we must use the means or we do not receive the blessings.

II. The thot of a daily portion also reveals to us the privelege of linying one day at a time. Like the pendulum in the clock which figured out the number of ticks it would have to make in a year's time, despair comes to many a heart when life is viewed as a whole. But life does not come to us all in a lump. Nor is it given to us by the year or the month or the week. It comes to us in days, one day at a time, day by day we live our lives

2. All we have to do is to trust God for today's need and for today's strength.

Lord, for tomorrow and its needs I do not pray;
Keep me, my God, from stain of sin just for today.
Help me to labor earnestly and douly pray;
Let me be kind in word and deed, Father, today.

Let me no wrong or idle word unthinking say;
Set thou a seal upon my lips thru all today.
Let me in season, Lord, be grave, in season gay;
Let me be faithful to thy grace, dear Lord, today.

And if, today, this life of mine should ebb away,
Give me thy sacrament, Father, today.
So for tomorrow and its needs I do not pray;
Still keep me, guide me, love me, Lord, thru each Today.

This is a song that is meant for living and practicing as well as for singing.

III. The thot of a daily portion from God also rebukes us the sin in us of borrowing trouble.

If God's grace is sufficient for every need, why worry over tomorrow's troubles? Most of our fretting is over anticipated troubles, worrying over imaginary evils. Evils that never happen are the very ones that make men most miserable.

Why worry when we have such a primise as our text gives us- a daily pirtion for every day of our lives. Monday's grace from God will be sufficient for Monday, Tuesd ay's grace will meet every need of Tuesday; Wednesday's grace will keep us safely thru the 24 hours of that day, and so on thru the week and thru the months and years to come.

IV. The thot of our texts should also stimulate and encourage us in all our Xn effort.

For those just beginning the Xn life our texts suggests a splendid rule of practice, one worthy of making into a life-long habit.

But perhaps there are not many beginners in the Xn life here this morning. Most of you are old-timers in the faith. For you, too, God's word has a message this morning. However you have climbed over the rough and rugged steeps of life, however young or old you may be, however weak or strong, whether you are in sunshine or shadow, whatever your circumstances may be, or your needs, take heart, take hope, take courage! The Lord God Omnipotent reigneth! Whatever your duties may be, or your burdens, or your sufferings, or your losses, this promise is yours, it comes straight

from God to you- As thy days, so shall thy strength be. Every day a portion all the days of your life. God's grace is sufficient for every need and for the need of every day.

In conclusion let me give you an illustration that has helped me the better to adjust myself to life's requirements.

Workmen in bronze factories, as they labor upon the panels of massive doors, clean the surfaces, trim th the edges, fill in the cavaties, touch and retouch the outlines, shape and smooth and polish one part after the another, and then go back and do the same thing over again.

A visitor once asked one of the men, "I should'nt think you would know when you are thru."

"We are never thru," replied the workman, "so long as they will let us keep at it. We stop when they take the panels away. That s all the finishing there is to it."

One of the hardest lessons to learn is that we must go over our character day after day, year after, cleaning, trimming, shaping, smoothing, filling up the cracks, polishing, touching and retouching.

Do not be discourage over the fact that you must keep on trying to be good and to do good. The work is good for us, and we are far better off working at it than we ould be by giving up and not working at all. And besides, what a joy will be ours when God comes after our pattern to put it to good use in the next world and finds it "well done".